

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: USSR WEATHER AND CROPS, SECOND DECADE, MARCH 1978

1. FOLLOWING DECADAL REPORT APPEARED IN SELSKAYA ZHIN ON MARCH 24. DURING THE PERIOD VERY WARM WEATHER PREVAILED IN THE MAJORITY OF EUROPEAN USSR. AVERAGE TEMPS EVERYWHERE WERE 3 TO 5 DEGREES CENTIGRADE ABOVE NORMS OF MANY YEARS (ALL TEMPS HEREIN IN CELSIUS). WINTER GRAIN GROWTH OCCURRED UNDER FAVORABLE CONDITIONS IN THE SOUTHERN UKRAINE, MOLDAVIA AND THE NORTH CAUCASUS.

2. WINTER GRAINS RESUMED VEGETATION ON CERTAIN DAYS IN THE NORTHWESTERN UKRAINE AND SOUTHERN VORONEZH AND VOLGOGRAD REGIONS WHEN TEMPS ROSE UP TO 12-13 DEGREES. TO THE NORTH OF A LINE GRODNO, MOGILEV, BRYANSK, VORONEZH AND SARATOV, WINTER CROPS WERE IN A STATE OF DORMANCY UNDER SNOW COVER. AT THE END OF THE DECADE IT BECAME COLDER IN THE BALTIC STATES AND "IN THE AREA SOUTH OF THE NORTHWESTERN REGION".

3. HEAVIEST PRECIPITATION FELL IN PREBALTICA, THE NORTHWESTERN REGION, EAST OF VOLGA-VYATKA, THE CENTRAL CHERNOZEM, CENTRAL AND EASTERN AREAS OF THE UKRAINE AND SOUTHERN

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MOLDAVIA.

4. SOILS ARE READY TO BE WORKED AND PLANTED TO EARLY SPRING CROPS IN THE MAJORITY OF MOLDAVIA, IN THE ODESSA, NIKOLAEV, KHERSON, ZAPOROZHE AREAS, IN THE SOUTHERN DONETSK AND ROSTOV REGIONS, IN KRASNODAR AND STAVROPOL KRAYS AND IN THE LIGHT-TEXTURED SOILS OF THE WESTERN UKRAINE. CONDITIONS FOR FIELD WORK WERE GOOD DURING THE

DECADE IN THE CRIMEA AND IN MOST OF THE NORTH CAUCASUS.

5. IN THE CAUCASUS, AVERAGE TEMPS DURING THE DECADE WERE CLOSE TO NORMAL. APRICOT AND EARLY PEAR TREES BEGAN TO BLOSSOM IN THE VALLEYS OF GEORGIA AND AZERBAIJAN, AS WELL AS IN PARTS OF THE CRIMEA AND SOUTHERN KRASNODAR.

6. WARM WEATHER PREVAILED IN THE MAJORITY OF SIBERIA AND NORTHEASTERN KAZAKHSTAN. AVERAGE TEMPS WERE 3-6 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. SOILS WERE IN CONDITION TO BE WORKED IN SOUTHERN CHIMKENT, JAMBUL, ALMA-ATA AND THE TALDY-KURGAN REGIONS. NIGHTTIME LOWS, HOWEVER, STILL REACHED MINUS 20 TO 27 IN THE NOVSIBIRSK, KEMEROVO AND IRKUTSK AREAS, IN THE ALTAY AND KRASNOYARSK KRAYS, AND IN THE EASTERN CHITA REGION WHICH REGISTERED MINUS 32. SOIL TEMPS AT TILLERING NODE LEVEL WERE OPTIMAL.

7. THE REPUBLICS OF CENTRAL ASIA RECORDED WARM TEMPS DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE DECADE. DAYTIME READINGS WENT UP TO 15 TO 20 DEGREES AND IN THE SOUTH UP TO 23-26. SOIL TEMPS AT A DEPTH OF 10 CENTIMETERS ROSE TO 10 TO 12 DEGREES AND IN LOCALITIES TO 13 TO 14. IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE PERIOD, COLDER TEMPS PREVAILED EVERYWHERE. FRUIT TREES IN THIS AREA WERE DEVELOPING SLOWLY. BY MARCH 20 BLOSSOMING OF APRICOT AND PEAR TREES WAS REPORTED IN THE SOUTHERN VALLEYS OF THESE REPUBLICS.

8. COMMENT: ABOVE REPORT WAS A DAY LATER THAN USUAL AND REFERENCE TO COLD FRONT OF LAST WEEKEND WAS MINIMAL. NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENTION OF ANY SERIOUS ADVERSE WEATHER OF ANY KIND WAS MADE. THIS IS A BIT SUSPICIOUS CONSIDERING FACT THAT THE REPORT ALSO ADMITS TO NO SNOW COVER IN THE "AREA SOUTH OF THE NORTHWESTERN REGION". MAP IN THIS REPORT SHOWS SNOW COVER LINE DRIFTING NORTH TO CLOSE TO SMOLENSK AND THEN DROPPING SOUTH AGAIN TO MOVE THROUGH OREL AND VORONEZH. WE ARE, HOWEVER, STILL UNABLE TO DEFINITELY ESTABLISH THAT ANY DAMAGE OCCURRED. AS PLANS NOW STAND WE WILL BE TRAVELING OREL/KIEV ROAD ON SUNDAY, MARCH 16. TOON

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